

AARON DANIELS

NOTE: The following diary of Aaron G. Daniels is shown here in his own words as was dictated to his daughter whom, for obvious reasons shall remain anonymous. The diary was donated for use in this narrative by Mr. June Balaich of Roy, Utah.

I, Aaron G. Daniels, being now old in years and somewhat infirm, but of sound mind and good memory, do dictate my brief memoirs this 26th day of July, 1895, so that some of my experiences and knowledge will be remembered after I am gone. I am doing this that my family know more of my past, and that they might profit from my experiences.

[ I was born on the first day of August in the year of 1822 in Thompkins County, town of Dryden, State of New York. My parents were Sheffield Daniels and Abigail Warren, who were both early converts of the Mormon Church.

I was only eight years of age when I was baptized into the Mormon Church in the State of New York in the year 1830, my father having been one of the first converts to follow the teachings of Joseph Smith. We followed the migrations of the Saints to Kirtland, Ohio and to Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois where I married my first wife, Caroline Rogers, the daughter of David W. Rodgers and Martha Collins, on the 14th of December, in the year 1843. I had eleven children by this marriage and have nearly outlived them all, several of them having died in infancy. My first wife has now only recently died on March 6, of this year, having remarried in 1886 after leaving me, to Abraham O. Smoot.

[ I arrived in Salt Lake Valley with the Saints in 1847 and answered the call to go settle Utah Valley in 1852.] It was at this time that the Saints at Fort Utah, which is now Provo City, were having trouble with the Indians, especially the band led by the renegade named Big

originals &  
pictures  
RdH  
10-16-91  
RRG

From  
Alta R. Preston  
She also sent pictures  
of Aaron Daniels #2 of 3  
(1)  
(2) Harriet Nixon  
(3) Rose

Elk. We fought a pitched battle at the fort and later chased the band up Spanish Fork Canyon where many of them were killed. The Mormon interpreter and Indian fighter, William W. Potter, eventually captured Big Elk and brought him back for trial and I was present when he was executed before a firing squad.

[In 1856, on February 20th, I married my second (polygamous) wife, Harriet Nixon, the daughter of Stephen Nixon and Harriet Rushton of England, and by this marriage I had eight children and by all <sup>his</sup> my <sup>he</sup> wives I had a total of twenty-three children.

Shortly after my second marriage I was called to settle Fort Supply near Fort Bridger and I lived there several years during the troubles with Johnston's Army and did some scouting with Captain Lot Smith.

<sup>near</sup> I was with John Bennion and others when the supply wagons were burned and also helped set the torch to Fort Bridger, in consequence of which I had great difficulty with old Jim Bridger who prior to that time had been a good friend. However, my loyalty lay unquestionably with the church and I weathered the difficulty by leaving and returning to Utah Valley.

[I spent a good deal of time traveling between Fort Supply and Utah Valley] during this time, concerned more with freighting and trapping, and in 1858 I went to Provo Valley (probably meant Heber Valley) with George Bean, William Meeks, William M. Wall and some others with a herd of cattle. [I <sup>1858</sup> started a ranch on the Provo River near where the town of Charleston is now located, about one mile north of that place where Daniels Creek enters the Provo River. Both Daniels Creek and Daniels Canyon are named after <sup>him</sup> me.]

I trapped and explored the valley in the winter, during which time is recorded that I discovered a Spanish Mine near the summit

of the ridge of Daniels Canyon, but I actually found this shaft in the spring. In April of 1859 I returned to Fort Supply and shortly thereafter William M. Wall, Jasper Boren, Moses Mecham, Ed Stokes, Dixon Greer and others came in and settled the town of Wallsburg.

About this time (1860) I moved to Wanship in Summit County where I lived for nearly twenty years on and off, operating a stage station and spending considerable time and effort in the pursuit of prospecting, cattle raising and trapping.

It was during this time that I first encountered the old prospector Thomas Rhoades and his son Cale Rhoades in Kamas Valley who were even at that time bringing out Gold from the now famous Brigham Young Mine just over the summit of the mountain from Kamas Valley on the Rock Creek drainage. I prospected this same region for many years and developed a long friendship with Cale Rhoades which I maintain to this day.

In 1879 a settlement was made at Ashley, which is now called Vernal, and I came there with the first settlers and spent much time there, both in the mountains prospecting with Pete Dilman, Robert Snyder and others, and in the Valley raising cattle. About this time Robert Snyder was killed by a bolt of lightning. I also spent considerable time back in Utah Valley developing my interests in that place.

In about 1885, shortly after my first wife left me to marry again, I took as my wife, my now present wife Rose Daniels, an Indian, who had been both loyal and devoted to me and by whom I have two daughters and two sons. She has raised and been mother to most of the children of my other wife.

Rose Daniels, being a woman of few words and not willing to talk about her past, I will say only that as a young girl, she had

been one of the unfortunate victims of the Bear River Massacre executed by General Connors (Patrick E. Connor) and during which her Indian parents had been killed. She was one of three Indian children brought back to be raised by Mormons, they having purchased her from the Shoshone Indians under old Chief Washakie, who had carried her away following the massacre. One of these captives, a girl, was raised by Brigham Young in his home, another was raised by the Murdock family at Heber City (Pick Murdock), and the last was my now present wife Rose Daniels who was raised by the Daniels family in Utah Valley.

I have had many and varied experiences from the early persecutions and riots in Missouri and Illinois to guiding wagon companies across the plains to Utah, and equally exciting and interesting events in trapping, exploring and prospecting throughout the West of the United States. I have seen the coming of the wagon trains to the coming of the railroads in these now modern times.

I have prospected many years with Cale Rhoades and have been privileged to learn the secret location of at least one of his fabulous tunnels Sacred to the Indians, and I have often been asked to reveal this knowledge or asked why I don't profit by it, but having taken an oath both for the benefit of Cale Rhoades and my wife's people (the Indians) I am not at liberty to divulge the Secret Location or to profit by it. This I owe also in loyalty to the Mormon Church who, as I have personally heard Chief Waker state, the gold in the vein actually belongs.

However, in recent years, due to my friendship with Cale Rhoades and the Utes, I have discovered several other old mines once worked by the Spaniards and the Indians, which will yet prove to be as valuable if not more than the Sacred Mine to the economy of this

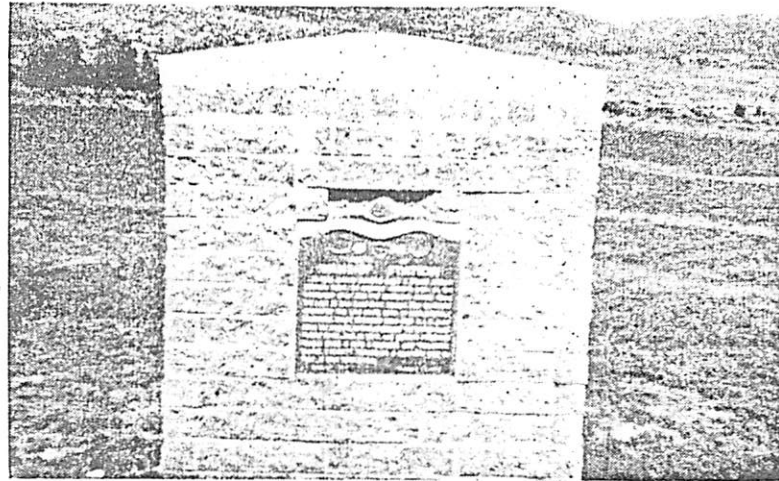
State and to the Nation.

Now that I am old and infirm due to several old bullet wounds inflicted during my service in the Indian Wars, it will be for the benefit of my family that I leave such information, knowing full well that I shall not live much longer to see them developed, but confident that my family will be left well off if they will uncover the lost mines by my direction, this being the primary reason for my leaving these memoirs.

I am therefore attaching to this brief biography and history my several maps and charts showing the locations of the mines and diggings and loose veins, with the appropriate instructions for their recovery.

Finally, I give my good wife Rose Daniels, who shares in these secrets my permission and instruction to develop and open up these mines and veins for the benefit of my family after my death.

Aaron G. Daniels



WANSHIP STATION

No. 165

In 1861, Aaron Daniels built a Stage Coach Station here to change horses and as an over-night stop for the Overland coach from the East to Salt Lake City. Gilmer and Salisbury operated the line until 1870. In 1869, Kimball Brothers stage between Echo and Salt Lake City also used the station. 1870, it became the Moorehouse family home and in 1877, the Andrew Peterson family made it into a rooming and boarding house. Later it was used as a granary and in 1912, it was torn down.

Wanship Camp

Summit Co.

Steven Nixon was said to have been the first settler in the district later known as Wanship. He, and his daughter, Margaret, and Henry Roper spent the winter of 1859-60 there. In the fall of 1861, Daniel H. Wells started work on a wagon road following Silver Creek. It was washed away the next spring and another road was then constructed higher up the mountain side. By 1861, enough people had settled here to warrant a mail station.

The settlement was named after the Indian Chief, Wanship, who was friendly toward the little group of pioneers who settled at the meeting place of Silver Creek and the Weber; and this friendliness may have resulted from the kindness shown the hungry Indians in the fall of 1861. Each family of these early settlers homesteaded a piece of ground, and, in some instances this same land is now owned and farmed by descendants of the first men who tilled it.

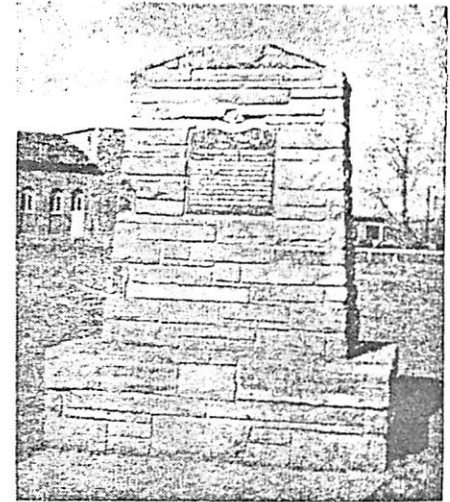
In 1861, Aaron Daniels built a large structure one half mile north of the town on the west side of the river. This was the mail station and stagecoach stop. Wanship was the first county seat of Summit County.

This marker was erected in 1951 at Wanship, Utah.

## No. 166 PANGUITCH STAKE TABERNACLE

Panguitch Stake of the L. D. S. church was organized in 1877, with James Henrie as president. In March, 1880, plans were made for a Stake house, with George Dodds architect and M. M. Steele, Sr., chairman of the building. The following men were prominent in its erection: Fredrick Judd, Samuel Worth & Sons, W. R. Riggs, Alfred Riding, W. P. Sargent, John F. Sevy and John W. Norton. The building served the community until 1949 when it was condemned and torn down.

Cornelia & Loy-Ho-Va Camps  
Panguitch, Garfield Co.



Panguitch, the county seat of Garfield County, is located near the hills in the south end of Panguitch valley. It was settled in 1864 when fifty families from Iron County came to the valley.

At a Quarterly Stake conference held in Panguitch; March 20, 1880, Joseph L. Heywood suggested the need of a church building. George Dodds drew the plans and in the spring of 1882, construction work began. Fredrick Judd made the brick and lime in 1881. Samuel Worthen & Sons did the mason work. Carpenters were M. M. Steele, Sr., Alfred Riding, W. R. Riggs, W. P. Sargent, John F. Sevy. Blacksmiths John W. Norton and son, Albert, took care of all the hardware. Alfred Riding planned the cornice. John F. Sevy and W. P. Sargent planned and built the steeple, which was surmounted by a weather-vane in the form of a large fish, four feet long, 12 in. deep and 4 in. thick made by John F. Sevy; a ball 2 ft. in diameter was made by Heber Riding. The fish and ball were held in place by an iron rod 79 ft. 9 in. made by John W. Norton and son, Albert. John Steele and Oscar Prince did most of the painting. It took ten years to complete the building.

This marker was erected in 1951 at Panguitch, Utah.



Ida Ercanbrack. The story of Carterville was given by Annie C. Emmons, a pioneer of that locality. Ellen J. Bunnell compiled the history of Lake View and Millicent Wells furnished the history of Vineyard. The information concerning Edgemont was written by Elizabeth and Osa B. Ferguson.

Edith B. Jones, assistant historian of the north end of the county, took charge of the work in that district. The history of Pleasant Grove was compiled by Lucille Walker and Fern E. Smith. Victoria Stewart, Fern Jensen, Verna Babcock, and Vera Sthow furnished the history of Lehi. Blanche Armstrong wrote the history of Fairfield including in it the coming of Johnston's Army and life in that community during the stay of the army. The history of Alpine was furnished by Albert A. Bennett and Jennie A. Wilde. Edith B. Jones, assisted by Relva B. Ross and Viola Binns gathered and compiled the history of American Fork.

The work of the southern districts was under the direction of Emma C. Beardall who supervised the gathering of the Springville and Mapleton histories, assisted by Mae B. Huntington. The histories of Spanish Fork, Palmyra and Leland were compiled by Edna G. Brockbank. Mary J. McLellan was chosen by the four camps of Payson to be chairman of their committee. Adella S. Dixon, Maud Olsen, Della Francom, Anna Snyder, Rhoda Davis, Elizabeth Manwill, Rhea Hone and Susan Ashby were named assistants. Salem history was gathered and compiled by Elizabeth S. Hatch, Lovina D. Ottesen, Agnus D. Taylor and Eunice H. Richardson. Sadie S. Hand and Sarah E. R. Burgin collected the Benjamin story. Josephine L. Anderson and Louis Jensen compiled the histories of Lake Shore and Goshen respectively. Clara Menlove furnished the history of Spring Lake while the history of Santaquin was taken from a series of letters written by B. F. Johnson.

The manuscripts were compiled and it was decided that the book be called *Memories That Live* as suggested by Hilda N. Bingham of Spanish Fork. Also that the Art City Publishing Company of Springville be given the job of publishing the book. This company demanded some assurance that the work be paid for, so President Cherrington, Lovina Johnson and Myrtle Clayson signed a note for the needed amount of money.

A paper drive was launched with the entire county participating. The women delivered the paper to the car and President Cherrington and Lovina Johnson loaded it. Then each camp was assigned books to sell according to its membership. With these two projects the note was redeemed, the publishing company paid in full and \$1,000.00 profit made on the project was sent to the Central Company to swell the Memorial Building Fund.

Thus a book was published which told the story of the first settlement of Utah County, including their homes, schools, churches

and their civic and religious life. Stories of their industries, their taming of the land, their professional and business people add interest to the reader. It is a good book.—*Lucy I. Clyde*

### UNDER WASATCH SKIES

#### A History of Wasatch County

For the strength of the hills we bless Thee  
Our God, our father's God;  
Thou hast made Thy children mighty  
By the touch of the mountain sod;  
Thou hast led Thy chosen Israel  
To freedom's last abode—  
For the strength of the hills we bless Thee  
Our God, our father's God.

Before 1947 Emma Hatch Wherritt, president of Wasatch County Daughters of Utah Pioneers had worked diligently to arouse interest and to gather material for a history of the settling of Wasatch County. The Daughters of No. One and Forget-me-not camps of Heber; the Hawthorne Camp of Midway, and the Timpanogos Camp of Charleston gathered authentic articles from their diaries and from descendants of the first settlers who entered the valley. They also collected material such as pictures of the first pioneers, first buildings and early scenes of this area. All this was placed in the care of Mrs. Wherritt and her committee composed of Daughters of the Wasatch Camps, who were Lethe Coleman Tatge, Hazel Lindsay Giles, Bernice Alder Simpson, Ethel Duke Johnson, Gladys Barrett Winterton and Julia Morse Anderson. Leslie S. Raty of the Brigham Young University was then engaged to compile the book. Talented Verna Berg did the cover design and other etchings typical of the valley.

The committee worked long hours reading and checking chapters as they came for proofreading, and doing the same again when the first printed sheets were finished. Pictures were carefully placed and titled; then they turned saleswomen, even before the books were off the press. Sometimes they got full payment, other times part payments. At times they resorted to borrowing in order that designated payments could be made to the printer as specified in the contract.

In 1954 when Lethe Coleman Tatge was elected president of the county company, hers was the responsibility of receiving the books and with other committee members to fill orders from residents of the valley and from many people in other states. All this preparation and completion of the book took three years of work and untold worries.

The interesting story of the settling of Wasatch County is one of hardships, courage, resourcefulness and ingenuity of our early settlers. Cattle raisers George Bean, William Meeks. Aaron Daniels

and William M. Wall entered the valley in the summer of 1858. A second group moved into the valley April 29, 1859.

At what is now Midway the first to farm were Jeremiah Robey, Sidney Epperson, Mark Smith, David Wood, Jesse McCarroll and Edwin Bronson in the summer of 1859. Peter Shirts, John and Ephraim Hanks and a Mr. Riggs located in the upper settlement of Midway in 1860. George Bean, Aaron Daniels and Aaron Decker had ranches along the rich grasslands of the Provo River bottoms at what is now Charleston. George Noakes and William Manning were among the first to farm the bench ground above the river.

At Daniels, which at first was two small settlements, Buysville and Daniels, the first settler was Edward Buys who came in 1870. He was soon followed by Henry William Wilford and H. T. Nelson, Robert Baird, Henry Moss, Sam Wing and the Noakes family with others following.

First settlers at Center Creek were Thomas Ross, Joseph Faucett, Joseph Cluff, James Adams and Jackson Smith. John Harvey moved in in 1861 and had charge of the ward.

At Lake Creek, two miles north of Center Creek, Bengt Peterson, James Nash, Robert and William Lindsay, William Murdock, William Baird and John Crook homesteaded during this period.

Wallsburg was first settled in 1860, when William Madison Wall moved in. A Gurr family, converts to the Latter-day Saint Church through Brother Wall's missionary work in Australia, followed. Then Dixon Greer, J. W. (Boern) Boren, Moses Mecham, Edward Stokes, Guy Kaiser, George Bowen, Luke Berdick and Francis Kirby followed by the Bigelow, Batty, Davis, Burns, Thompson, Stoker and Wheeler families had all settled by 1862. Many settlers came as water could be brought onto the fertile land.

—*Julia Morse Anderson, Lethe C. Tatge*

#### UNDER DIXIE SUN

A History of Washington County

"We are not here to play, to dream, to drift  
We have hard work to do, and loads to lift.  
Shun not the struggle; face it. 'Tis God's gift.  
Say not the days are evil—who's to blame?  
And fold the hands and acquiesce—O shame.  
Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.  
It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong,  
How hard the battle goes, the day how long,  
Faint not, fight on. Tomorrow comes the song.

—*Maltbie Davenport Babcock*

In December of 1950, the first shipment of the publication, *Under Dixie Sun*, arrived at St. George, Utah, and was gratefully

received by members of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Washington County. Four years had passed since the county organization had been given the responsibility of compiling and publishing a County history. Although many small articles of local interest had been sent to the Central Company for lesson material, none of the D.U.P. members felt qualified to take over the responsibility of publishing a history of the first hundred years' growth of our County. After time had elapsed for consideration of the project, it was decided to call in some local people who had experience in such matters and form a committee to start the project along.

Our County librarian had often had requests for local history of one kind or another but had found the supply very limited, so she offered to help gather material for the County history. Other citizens who had had some experience in the literary field also offered to help, through their desire to see such a book published if it would preserve for future generations the noble work of our pioneers. Above all, the desire was to have the history express the spirit of dedication that caused our forefathers to give their all to the task of building a homeland in southern Utah. To accomplish this, they decided to assign each town history to a citizen of that community, who would be willing to give the time necessary to hunt up all important facts through conversations with living pioneers, scanning local diaries, records or any other means of writing an intimate and accurate history. Before sending it to the County Committee the author was expected to read it before a representative group of the citizens of the locality for their corrections and approval.

This proved to be such a task it was soon discovered that the kind of book we wished to publish never could be compiled in time to qualify for any of the money appropriated by the state legislature, to counties to aid in the project of publishing historical books during the state centennial year of 1947. But a small amount of money did not make much difference in a project of the size this seemed to be, so the committee decided to put out a book that would satisfy their needs, even though it might take an extra year or two, and lose all chance of receiving any financial aid from the state. Other topics of special county interest were assigned to special individuals, and the work of writing commenced.

Months later, when the manuscripts began coming in, they were turned over to proofreaders for further appraisal. But the biggest job lay ahead, that of raising the money necessary for the publishing of the volume. It had been decided to make a book with paper 8 x 11 inches into five hundred pages, and to order three thousand volumes to bring down the cost of the single volume as well as provide for all future needs for the book. This meant that the expense would run over ten thousand dollars, a large amount for an organization such as our local Daughters of Utah Pioneers organization to assume.